

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 1898

To establish the Green River National Wildlife Refuge in the State of
Kentucky.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 25, 2002

Mr. McCONNELL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and
referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To establish the Green River National Wildlife Refuge in
the State of Kentucky.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Green River National
5 Wildlife Refuge Act of 2002”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) the Green River bottoms area, Kentucky,
9 was once part of a large bottomland hardwood for-
10 est;

1 (2) most of the bottoms area has been con-
2 verted to agricultural use through—

3 (A) draining of wetland;

4 (B) altering of interior drainage systems;

5 and

6 (C) clearing of bottomland hardwood for-
7 est;

8 (3) as of the date of enactment of this Act, the
9 bottoms area is predominantly ridge and swale farm-
10 land, with river-scar oxbows, several sloughs, wet de-
11 pression areas, and a small quantity of bottomland
12 hardwood forest;

13 (4) approximately 1,200 acres of bottomland
14 hardwood forest remain, consisting mostly of cy-
15 press, willow, hackberry, silver maple, ash, and
16 buttonbush;

17 (5) many of the interior drainage systems on
18 the land offer excellent opportunities to restore, with
19 minor modifications, the historical hydrology, wet-
20 land, and bottomland hardwood forest of the bot-
21 toms area to high-quality wildlife habitats;

22 (6) in the bottoms area, waterfowl occur in
23 large numbers when sufficient water levels occur,
24 primarily when flood conditions from the Ohio River

1 and the Green River negate the extensive drainages
2 and alterations made by man;

3 (7) the wooded and shrub tracts of the bottoms
4 area are used by many species of nongame
5 neotropical migratory birds;

6 (8) migratory shorebirds use the bottoms area
7 during spring migrations;

8 (9) wading birds such as snipe, great blue
9 heron, green heron, common egret, and great egret
10 frequent the bottoms area;

11 (10) bald eagles and myriad other raptors fre-
12 quent the bottoms area;

13 (11) several species listed as endangered or
14 threatened species under the Endangered Species
15 Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) have been
16 found near the bottoms area, including Indiana bat
17 maternity colonies, fanshell, pink mucket pearly
18 mussel, and fat pocketbook;

19 (12) several species of mussel listed as endan-
20 gered or threatened species under that Act histori-
21 cally occurred near the bottoms area, including pur-
22 ple cat's paw pearly mussel, tubercled-blossom pearly
23 mussel, ring pink, and white wartyback pearly mus-
24 sel;

1 (13) the copperbelly water snake, covered by
2 the Copperbelly Water Snake Conservation Plan, is
3 found in the wetland complex and buttonbush shrub
4 in the Scuffletown area;

5 (14) significant populations of resident game
6 species, including white-tailed deer, swamp rabbit,
7 cottontail rabbit, gray squirrel, mink, muskrat, bea-
8 ver, fox, and coyote, occur in the bottoms area;

9 (15) the Ohio River and the Green River are
10 important habitat for big river species such as
11 paddlefish, sturgeon, catfish, carp, buffalo, and gar;

12 (16) conservation, enhancement, and ecological
13 restoration of the bottoms area through inclusion in
14 the National Wildlife Refuge System would help
15 meet the habitat conservation goals of—

16 (A) the North American Waterfowl Man-
17 agement Plan;

18 (B) the Lower Mississippi Joint Venture;

19 (C) the Interior Low Plateaus Bird Con-
20 servation Plan; and

21 (D) the Copperbelly Water Snake Con-
22 servation Plan;

23 (17) the valuable complex of wetland habitats
24 comprising the bottoms area, with its many forms of
25 wildlife, has extremely high recreational value for

1 hunters, anglers, birdwatchers, nature photog-
2 raphers, and others; and

3 (18) the Green River bottoms area is deserving
4 of inclusion in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

5 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

6 The purpose of this Act is to establish the Green
7 River National Wildlife Refuge in the Green River bottoms
8 area, Henderson County, Kentucky, to provide—

9 (1) habitat for migrating and wintering water-
10 fowl;

11 (2) habitat for nongame land birds;

12 (3) habitats for a natural diversity of fish and
13 wildlife;

14 (4) nesting habitat for wood ducks and other lo-
15 cally nesting migratory waterfowl;

16 (5) high-quality hunting and sportfishing oppor-
17 tunities; and

18 (6) opportunities for environmental education,
19 interpretation, and wildlife-oriented recreation.

20 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

21 In this Act:

22 (1) REFUGE.—The term “Refuge” means the
23 Green River National Wildlife Refuge established
24 under section 5.

1 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of the Interior.

3 **SEC. 5. ESTABLISHMENT.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
6 the Green River National Wildlife Refuge, consisting
7 of approximately 23,000 acres of Federal land,
8 water, and interests in land or water within the
9 boundaries depicted on the map entitled “Green
10 River National Wildlife Refuge”, dated September
11 10, 2001.

12 (2) BOUNDARY REVISIONS.—The Secretary
13 shall make such minor revisions of the boundaries of
14 the Refuge as are appropriate to carry out the pur-
15 poses of the Refuge or to facilitate the acquisition of
16 land, water, and interests in land or water within
17 the Refuge.

18 (3) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map referred
19 to in paragraph (1) shall be available for inspection
20 in appropriate offices of the United States Fish and
21 Wildlife Service.

22 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The establishment of the
23 Refuge shall take effect on the date on which the Sec-
24 retary publishes, in the Federal Register and publications
25 of local circulation in the vicinity of the Refuge, a notice

1 that sufficient property has been acquired by the United
2 States within the Refuge to constitute an area that can
3 be efficiently managed as a national wildlife refuge.

4 **SEC. 6. ACQUISITION OF LAND, WATER, AND INTERESTS IN**
5 **LAND OR WATER.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of ap-
7 propriations, the Secretary may obtain by purchase from
8 willing sellers, donation, or exchange up to 23,000 acres
9 of land and water, or interests in land or water, within
10 the boundaries of the Refuge described in section 5(a)(1).

11 (b) INCLUSION IN REFUGE.—Any land, water, or in-
12 terest acquired by the Secretary under this section shall
13 be part of the Refuge.

14 **SEC. 7. ADMINISTRATION.**

15 In administering the Refuge, the Secretary shall—

16 (1) conserve, enhance, and restore the native
17 aquatic and terrestrial community characteristics of
18 the Green River (including associated fish, wildlife,
19 and plant species);

20 (2) conserve, enhance, and restore habitat to
21 maintain and assist in the recovery of species of ani-
22 mals and plants that are listed as endangered spe-
23 cies or threatened species under the Endangered
24 Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

1 (3) in providing opportunities for compatible
2 fish- and wildlife-oriented recreation, ensure that
3 hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photog-
4 raphy, and environmental education and interpreta-
5 tion are the priority general public uses of the Ref-
6 uge, in accordance with paragraphs (3) and (4) of
7 section 4(a) of the National Wildlife Refuge System
8 Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd(a));
9 and

10 (4) encourage the use of volunteers and facili-
11 tate partnerships among the United States Fish and
12 Wildlife Service, local communities, conservation or-
13 ganizations, and other non-Federal entities to
14 promote—

15 (A) public awareness of the resources of
16 the Refuge and the National Wildlife Refuge
17 System; and

18 (B) public participation in the conservation
19 of those resources.

20 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
22 as are necessary for—

23 (1) the acquisition of land and water within the
24 boundaries of the Refuge; and

- 1 (2) the development, operation, and mainte-
- 2 nance of the Refuge.

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